

### **Minimum Wage Legislation Introduced By Democrats in Odd-Numbered Years**

1. 105<sup>th</sup> Congress 1997: HR 2211 “American Family Fair Minimum Wage Act of 1997” – Republican-controlled E&W Committee refused to take action on the bill.
2. 106<sup>th</sup> Congress 1999: HR 325 “Fair Minimum Wage Act of 1999”
3. 107<sup>th</sup> Congress 2001: HR 665 “Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2001”
4. 109<sup>th</sup> Congress 2005: HR 2429 “Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2005”

### **Letters to Ed and Workforce Chairman Goodling From Ranking Democrat William Clay Requesting Action on the Minimum Wage – in Odd-Numbered Years**

5. March 1, 1999, asking for hearing and markup of minimum wage legislation.
6. October 29, 1999

### **Letters To Ed and Workforce Chairman Boehner from Senior Member Miller Requesting Action on the Minimum Wage—in Odd-Numbered Years**

7. March 2, 2001 from all 22 Democratic Members of the Committee requesting hearings on H.R. 665 to increase the minimum wage
8. July 16, 2001 from George Miller requesting, among other things, “immediate action to increase the minimum wage”.

### **Press Events/Statements/Reports – in Odd-Numbered Years**

9. Ranking Member Clay Makes a Statement in Ed and Workforce Committee urging passage of the minimum wage, October 7, 1999.
10. Ranking Member Clay asks unanimous consent in the Education and Workforce Committee to bring up H.R. 325 to increase the minimum wage, November 3, 1999.
11. Democrats issue “A Mid-Term Report Card, the Republicans Failed Labor Education and Health Care Record” with section entitled “**Republicans Continue to Block a Fair Minimum Wage**” and notes no committee action “[d]espite the submission to the committee’s chairman for repeated written requests for a markup of minimum wage legislation...” November 29, 1999 (Report)

12. Statement on the Introduction of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2001 (February 7, 2001)
13. Miller Introduces Legislation to Increase the Minimum Wage, February 27, 2003 (press release)
14. “Bush Administration Assault on Working Families –First 100 Days” calls for Republicans to stop blocking an increase in the minimum wage. April 26, 2001 (Report)
15. This Christmas, Congress Should Help the Less Fortunate by Rising Minimum Wage, December 14, 2005. (press release)
16. House Again Refuses to Give Minimum Wage Workers a Raise, July 12, 2005 (press release)
17. Miller Calls for Minimum Wage Increase, May 18, 2005 (press release)

#### **Sample of Dear Colleagues Sent in Odd-Numbered Years on Minimum Wage**

18. Support a Fair Increase in the Minimum Wage, January 8, 2003 (Miller)
19. Support an Increase in the Minimum Wage, January 31, 2003 (Miller)
20. Co-sponsor the Minimum Wage, February 25, 2003 (Miller)

#### **Sampling of Floor Statements (Congressional Record) on Minimum Wage by Key Democrats in Odd-Numbered Years**

##### **21. Rep. George Miller, October 25, 2005:**

“Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of millions of American working men and women who are in desperate need of a raise. It has been a disgraceful 8 years since Congress last voted to raise the national minimum wage which is stuck today at only \$5.15 an hour. A person making the minimum wage today would have to work for the better part of an hour just to afford a single gallon of milk or a gallon of gasoline.” (*Congressional Record*, Page H9049)

##### **22. Rep. George Miller, May 18, 2005:**

“Mr. Speaker, today, together with 100 of my colleagues, we are introducing legislation to raise the Federal minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 over 2 years. Senator Edward Kennedy is introducing identical legislation in the Senate. Two reports that are also being

released today, one by the Center for Economic and Policy Research and one by the Children's Defense Fund, make obvious the importance of raising the minimum wage for workers, children, and families.” (*Congressional Record*, Page E1024)

**23. Rep. George Miller, February 27, 2003:**

“Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to be joined by 73 of my colleagues in introducing legislation to increase the minimum wage. The legislation that we are introducing today provides for a \$1.50 increase in the minimum wage, in two steps. Our bill raises the minimum wage from its current level of \$5.15 per hour to \$5.90 sixty days after enactment and raises it again to \$6.65 one year thereafter. In addition, the legislation extends the applicability of the minimum wage to the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Our bill is identical to legislation introduced in the other body by the Democratic Leader, Mr. Daschle, and 34 of his colleagues.” (*Congressional Record*, Page E333)

**24. Rep. George Miller on CNMI, July 26, 2001:**

“Today, I am joined by more than 40 co-sponsors as we introduce the “CNMI Human Dignity Act,” which would require that the Americans living in the US/CNMI live under the same laws as all of our constituents in our home districts. This legislation would extend U.S. immigration and minimum wage laws to the US/CNMI.” (*Congressional Record*, Page E1442)

**25. Rep. Rob Andrews, May 23, 2001:**

“That compassion is sorely lacking when there has been a commitment by the majority not to move a bill to raise the minimum wage of many of those parents that we are talking about today.” (*Congressional Record*, Page H2601)

**26. Rep. Major Owens, March 7, 2001:**

“What we are experiencing today is the beginning of warfare on a large scale which has a psychological significance. It is very strategic. After we roll over ergonomics, it is going to be Davis-Bacon's prevailing wage act. It is going to be onward marching toward the elimination of any consideration of any minimum wage from now until this administration goes out of power.” (*Congressional Record*, Page H664)

**27. Rep. George Miller, November 3, 1999:**

“Now the Republicans tell us that we cannot afford a prescription drug benefit for our seniors, that we cannot afford a Patients' Bill of Rights to protect our families against managed care and HMOs that deny them care, that we cannot afford a minimum wage for our low-income workers in this Nation, and that we cannot extend the fiscal security of social security by even one day. No, the Republicans still want to try to pass tax breaks for the wealthiest individuals, corporations, and special interests in this country. When in this session, in the last remaining 8 or 10 days of this session, when is it that Republicans are going to start thinking about our elderly, our children, and the working families of this Nation?” (*Congressional Record*, Page H11376)

**28. Rep. William Clay, June 18, 1997:**

“Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an important editorial that appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Monday, June 16, 1997. It brings to light the harsh reality of a GOP plan that deprives welfare participants of minimum wage.” (*Congressional Record*, Page E1251)

**29. Rep. George Miller on CNMI, April 24, 1997:**

“Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to address the systematic, persistent, and inexcusable exploitation of men and women in sweatshops in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a territory of the United States of America. ...This legislation will increase the minimum wage in the CNMI in stages until it matches the Federal level.” (*Congressional Record*, Page E748)

**30. Rep. George Miller, September 5, 1997:**

“This is not a matter of conjecture, this is a matter of record that hundreds of thousands of workers on a regular basis are denied their overtime pay. That overtime pay is the difference of whether or not they can provide for their family or not provide for their family. That minimum wage pays the difference of whether or not they need public assistance or they do not need public assistance, whether they can provide child care or they cannot provide child care for their children as they work.” (*Congressional Record*, Page H6931)